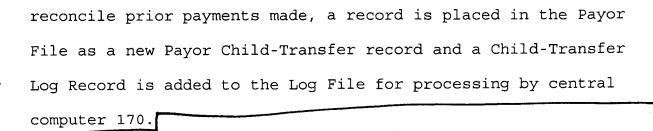multiplexers (sometimes these assemblers, disassemblers, multiplexers and related equipment are generally referenced as "communications interface assistors" 116), and a protocol translator front-end processor (e.g. FEP) 118. In addition, the system 100 preferably includes a plurality of voice telephone devices (e.g. 120), and one or more digital personal computers 1 22 running an operating system such as the MS-DOS Operating System software, in turn running a graphical user interface program such as the Microsoft Windows (e.g. version 3.1 software).

Page 69, the paragraph beginning on line 4 is amended to:

Turning now to Fig. 13, preferred details of how the system of present invention processes returned item files is illustrated in simplified form. Particularly, returned items are preferably received and stored in temporary working files (e.g. TCF return item file) in the off-line files 165 of the invention. As described below, if the item returned appears to be a result of the error of the TCFlnterfaceBank, an appropriate notice/report will be generated by the TCFlnterfaceBank and handled accordingly. Otherwise. the returned transaction is identified to the Payee or Payor. as appropriate. and handled accordingly. If the returned item requires a credit or debit to

reconcile prior payments made, a record is placed in the Payor File as a new Payor Child-Transfer record and a Child-Transfer Log Record is added to the Log File for processing by central computer 170.

Page 74, the paragraph beginning on line18 is amended to:

The second set of preferably periodic scheduled activities is references in Fig. 5 as main Log File split and warehouse file processing, which is described in more detail in Figs. 16A, 16B, and 16C. Generally, over the course of each period, each Log Record is added to the Log File in the on-line files 160. Periodically, and preferably daily, the system 100 needs to perform additional processing using these Log Records. Since the Log File contains both payment-related Log Records and non-payment-related Log Records, a first pass is preferably made through the Log File to split the file into two sub-files ("Log 2 File" and "Log 3 File", as shown in Fig. 16A). The Log 2 File preferably contains all of the payment-related Log Records (e.g., Child-Transfer Log Records), while the Log 3 File contains all of the non-payment-related Log Records. The segregated Log Records are all preferably also saved in an archive Log File which is available in the off-line files 165 for use in research, historical documentation, and periodic statements and reports.

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